

In the Claims

1-34. (canceled)

35. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from an inorganic material.

36. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a material selected from the group consisting of metals, metal oxides, carbonaceous compounds, main group oxides, nitrides, carbides, calcium salts and mixtures thereof.

37. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a material selected from the group consisting of rutile titanium oxide, anatase titanium dioxide, niobium oxide, tantalum oxide, zirconium oxide, iridium oxide, tungsten oxide, silica, alumina, gold, hafnium, platinum, iridium, palladium, tungsten, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, titanium, aluminum, chromium, lamp black, furnace black, carbon black, fumed carbon black, gas black, channel black, activated charcoal, diamond, titanium nitride, chromium nitride, zirconium nitride, tungsten carbide, silicon carbide, titanium carbide, hydroxyapatite, dahlite, brushite, tricalcium phosphate, calcium sulphate, calcium carbonate, silicides, barium titanate, strontium titanate and mixtures thereof.

38. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polymeric material.

39. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a material selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyurethanes, cellulosics, polyesters, polyamides, polyacrylates, liquid crystal polymers, polycarbonates, epoxies derived from bisphenol A based diepoxides, aliphatic polyketones, polysulfones, and mixtures thereof.

40. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a material selected from the group consisting of poly(hexamethylene isophthalamide/terephthalamide), poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-p-oxybenzoate), polyacrylonitrile, acrylonitrile/styrene copolymer, rubber-modified acrylonitrile/acrylate copolymer, poly(methyl methacrylate), poly(phenylene sulfide), polystyrene, poly(vinyl

alcohol), poly(ethylene-vinyl alcohol), poly(ester-sulfone), poly(urethane-sulfone), poly(carbonate-sulfone), poly(3-hydroxyoxetane), gelatin, amylose, parylene-C, parylene-D, parylene-N, and mixtures thereof.

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the active ingredient is for the treatment of restenosis.

44. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein forming the ~~coating barrier layer~~ comprises applying a composition to the ~~device stent~~, the composition including the particles.

45. (currently amended) The method of Claim [[44]] 59, wherein forming the first layer comprises additionally comprising prior to applying the composition, applying a second composition including the at least one polymer, the at least one active ingredient, and a solvent to the stent containing the active ingredient to a surface of the implantable medical device to form a reservoir coating on at least a portion of the surface of the implantable medical device.

46. (currently amended) The method of Claim [[44]] 59, additionally comprising prior to applying the composition: forming the first layer forming

(a) ~~applying a second composition to a surface of the implantable medical device to form a primer layer on at least a portion of the a surface of the stent implantable medical device; and~~

(b) ~~applying a third composition containing the active ingredient to the implantable medical device to form a reservoir coating on at least a portion of the primer layer.~~

47. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the size of the particles is not greater than about 10% of the thickness of the coating.

48. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polyolefin selected from the group of polyethylenes, poly(vinyl chloride),

poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride), poly(tetrafluoroethylene), poly(chlorotrifluoroethylene), and mixtures thereof.

49. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polyurethane having a glass transition temperature above a storage temperature.

50. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polyurethane having a non-polar soft segment, the non-polar soft segment being selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, silicones, fluorosilicones, and combinations thereof.

51. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a cellulosic selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate having a DS greater than about 0.8 or less than about 0.6, ethyl cellulose, cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, methyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

52. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polyester selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene 2,6-naphthalene dicarboxylate), poly(butylene terephthalate), and mixtures thereof.

53. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polyamide selected from the group consisting of nylon-6, nylon-6,6, nylon-6,9, nylon-6,10, aromatic nylon, and mixtures thereof.

54. (currently amended) The method of Claim 33 59, wherein the particles are made from a polyacrylate selected from the group consisting of poly(methylmethacrylate) and polymethacrylate

55-58. (canceled)

59. (previously presented) A method of producing a coating on a stent, comprising:

(a) forming a first layer of a coating on a stent, the first layer including at least one polymer and at least one active ingredient; and

(b) forming a barrier layer on at least a portion of the first layer, the barrier layer comprising

(i) particles adapted to reduce a rate of release of the active ingredient from the first layer after insertion of the stent into a biological lumen, and

(ii) a first region and a second region, wherein the first region of the barrier layer has a greater particle volume fraction as compared to the second region of the barrier layer.

60. (previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the particle volume fraction of the first region of the barrier layer is less than or equal to 0.74.

61. (previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the first region of the barrier layer includes a first polymer and the second region of the barrier layer includes a second polymer.

62. (previously presented) The method of Claim 59, wherein the first layer of the coating further includes a first region disposed beneath the first region of the barrier layer, and a second region disposed beneath the second region of the barrier layer, wherein each of the first and second regions of the first layer includes a different active ingredient.

63. (canceled)